



## A Rich Tradition of Activism

Founded in 1871, Grace Church has an inspiring history of social activism.

### COMMITTED TO RACIAL JUSTICE

In 1957, Grace Church welcomed members of St. Philip's Church, a historically black Episcopal church in Syracuse's 15<sup>th</sup> Ward which had closed its doors. This established Grace as one of the first fully integrated Episcopal churches in the nation. In the 1960s, Grace led the city's churches in the civil rights movement. Today Grace continues its commitment to social justice. We are active members of A.C.T.S. and in 2015, took a leading role in ending solitary confinement for incarcerated youth in Onondaga County.



### LGBTQ EQUALITY

In 2008, Grace led the Diocese of Central New York in LGBTQ activism, participating in the CNY Pride Parade and Festival. Grace continues to fully support the LGBTQ community today.

### PIONEERING WOMEN'S ORDINATION

In 1964, Betty Bone Schiess sparked national controversy as a one of eleven women who, defying the church laws, were irregularly ordained priests in Philadelphia. The Rev. Betty Bone Schiess later became an associate rector of Grace Church.

## Mission

### FOOD PANTRY

Grace's Food Pantry, created in 1970, was one of the first organized emergency food pantries in Syracuse. Our Food Pantry is a member of the Food Bank of Central New York and the Inter-religious Food Consortium. The Food Pantry is open 9 - 11:30 a.m. every Thursday.



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Grace's weekly Wednesday Night Supper, began as a potluck dinner and has grown into a neighborhood and community event. All are invited to enjoy a home cooked meal prepared by our faithful volunteers. Following a short prayer, dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. A small donation is appreciated but not required.

### THE GRACE PROJECT (TGP)

TGP is a grassroots ministry working to bring about transformation in the lives of impoverished, at-risk young men - one life at a time. Our work is collaborative, deeply rooted in Grace's rich history of social justice and based on our understanding that all are welcome at God's table and on our desire to see the face of Christ in all who we meet.

## Our Patron Saint, David Pendleton Oakerhater

David Pendleton Oakerhater was a warrior and leader of the Cheyenne of Oklahoma who accepted the Christian faith while imprisoned by the US military. David was baptized in 1878 and ordained to the diaconate in 1881 at Grace. He returned to Oklahoma and established schools and missions among his people. He was elevated to sainthood in 1985. In 1992, Grace Church was designated as the national shrine to Saint Oakerhater, the first Native American Episcopal saint.

### THE OAKERHATER WINDOW AT GRACE CHURCH



It is rare for an Episcopal church to claim a patron saint when that person was alive in the parish's lifetime. David Pendleton Oakerhater walked in our nave, was baptized in our font and knelt at our altar to be ordained a deacon.